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16 February 1962

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CENTRAL
INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN



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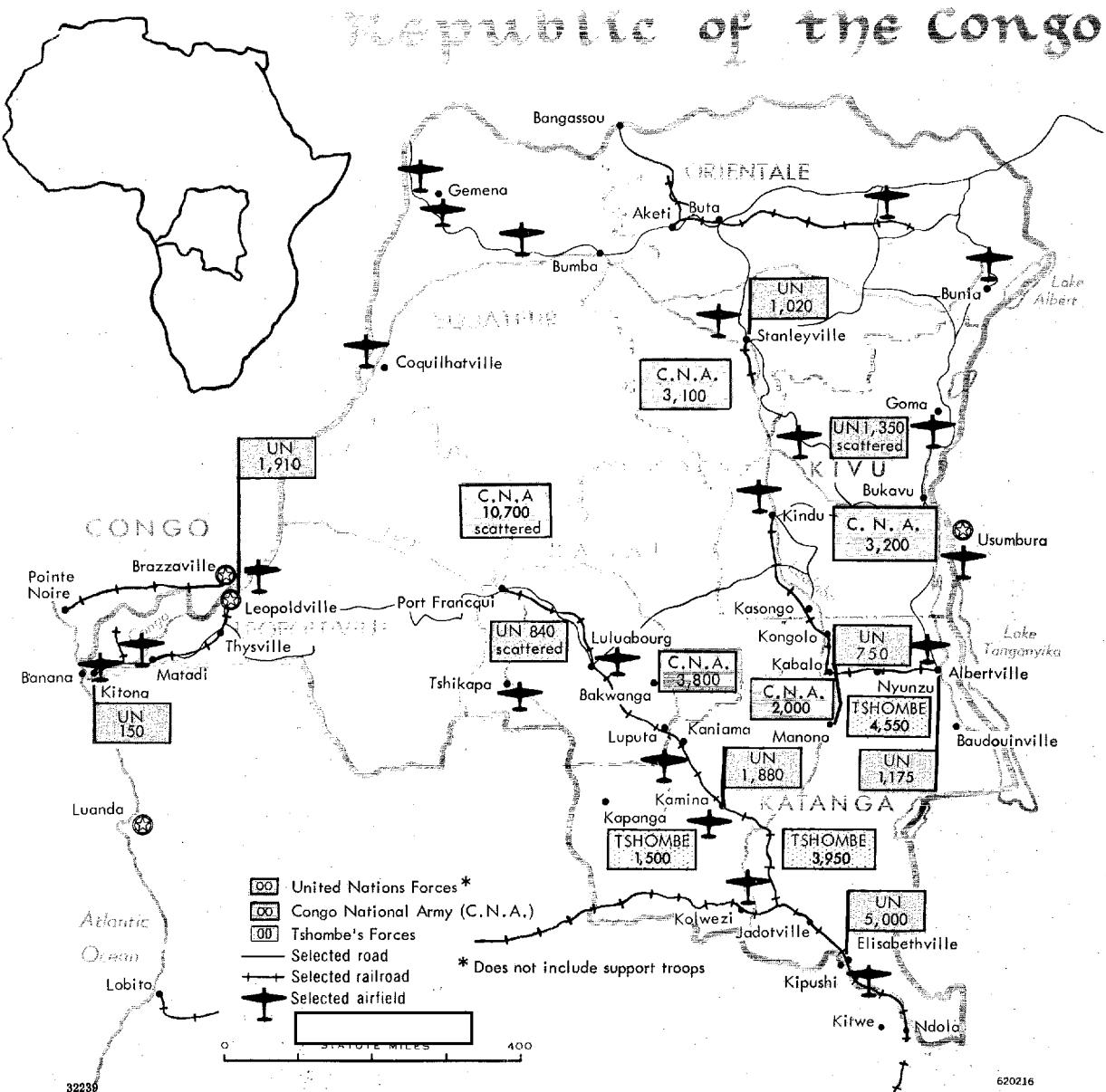
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DAILY BRIEF

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Congo: The Katanga parliament, in "authorizing" Tshombé to resume talks with Adoula aimed at reintegrating Katanga with the Congo, has underscored the Katangan view that the Kitona accords of last December are not binding, and that Katanga's future is subject to negotiation. Among the conditions attached to any reunification of the Congo were demands that the central government renounce the use of "international"--i. e., UN--forces in "internal" Congolese affairs, and that Katanga be allocated at least as many cabinet portfolios as those held by "Lumumbists." The Katangan resolution appears designed to spell out Tshombé's current bargaining position, while displaying sufficient reasonableness to deter the UN command from a military offensive in southern Katanga.

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Tension remains high among Europeans and Africans in southern Katanga, who still fear that the UN plans to move military forces to important mining centers outside Elisabethville. The commander of UN troops in Katanga is currently on leave outside the Congo until 17 February, and his return would appear to be a prerequisite to any major UN military move.

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India: Indian voters begin casting their ballots on 16 February in an election which has aroused little popular enthusiasm. Despite vigorous campaigning by Nehru and opposition leaders, the commanding advantage enjoyed by the Congress party has left the electorate of some 210 million generally apathetic except in a few highly publicized contests. First results will be announced after polling is completed on 25 February. Congress candidates are likely to retain a substantial majority of the 494 elected seats in the lower house of Parliament, although they probably will hold fewer than their present total of 366. Congress control in most states will be maintained by decisive margins, but the party's majorities in several state legislatures are likely to be reduced. Conservative elements and independents, including many dissident Congress candidates, will benefit most by these losses. However, Communist candidates, despite weakening popular support, probably will manage to maintain roughly their present position nationally--they won 9 percent of the popular vote in 1957--and possibly to improve their position in West Bengal and certain other areas of party strength by exploiting local issues.

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Cyprus: Fazil Kuchuk, Cypriot vice president and leader of the Turkish Cypriots, is reported disturbed over recent statements by Greek Cypriot cabinet ministers intimating that union with Greece remains their final objective. Ambassador Wilkins comments that the two communities are at greater odds today than at any time during the past year. The guarantor powers, Greece, Turkey, and Britain, continue to urge restraint, but tempers have flared in recent weeks. Turkish Cypriots are accusing Makarios and his advisers of refusing to implement the provisions of the Cyprus settlement, while Greek Cypriots are denouncing Turkish Cypriot leaders for obstructionism and political blackmail.

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*Ethiopia: The death on 14 February of the widely respected Empress following a long illness will result in a 60-day period of mourning during which political activity in Ethiopia will be sharply curtailed. If Emperor Haile Selassie experiences an emotional shock comparable to that of several years ago upon the death of his favorite son, Ethiopia's internal administration may be tied up for several months, since all facets of the administration depend on his direct decisions. The Empress was widely regarded as the peoples' intercessor in the Palace as well as Haile Selassie's respected adviser on internal political matters. Her death may lead to a gradual decline of popular support for Haile Selassie's regime. The Empress' death is a heavy blow to the crown prince's aspiration to succeed to the throne--she was considered his most powerful supporter--and the septuagenarian Emperor may soon publicly back a fourteen-year-old grandson, who became the Duke of Harar upon the death of his father, the Emperor's favorite. Such action against the crown prince, who for several years has been implicated in plotting against the Emperor, would antagonize reformist groups in the administrative and military services and could result in renewed dissident activity.

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*UAR-France: [redacted] has asked the US Embassy in Cairo to pass word to the French Government that President Nasir desires to establish close relations with France as soon as the Algerian problem is settled. [redacted] Cairo will be ready to talk to the French about the French prisoners now on trial in Cairo after an Algerian settlement is announced. Nasir would not be making much of a sacrifice on the issue of the French prisoners, since the Egyptian prosecution has not been able to present a convincing case that they were involved in significant espionage activities.

Both De Gaulle and Foreign Minister Couve de Murville have repeatedly indicated that they wanted to improve France's relations

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with the Arab states and have recognized the Algerian war as the major obstacle to this objective. Paris would probably be cautiously receptive to any UAR initiative in this direction.

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